PRESCRIBED GRAZING (528) **CONSERVATION PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION WORKSHEET**

RANGELAND - RIPARIAN AREA GRAZING

CLIENT/OPERATING UNIT: _____ LOCATION: _____

FARM NO. _____ TRACT: _____ FIELD/PASTURES(S): _____ ACRES _____

PROGRAM: _____ CONTRACT NO. | ITEM NO.: _____ | JOB APPROVAL CLASS _____

PURPOSE (check one or more of the purposes listed below)

- ❒ Improve or maintain the health and vigor of selected plant(s) and to maintain a stable and desired plant community
- ❒ Provide or maintain food, cover, and shelter for animals of concern
- ❒ Maintain or improve animal health and productivity
- ❒ Maintain or improve water quality and quantity
- ❒ Control accelerated soil erosion and maintain or improve soil productivity
- ❒ Attain grazing and management efficiency to promote economic stability and meet resource improvement objectives

FORAGE INVENTORY

FORAGE INVENTORY:

Form NV-ECS-01 is used to record rangeland ecological site species composition (by weight), assess usable forage production, determine Similarity Index, and to evaluate *rangeland* or *planned* trend.

NV-ECS-01(s) (page 1): *In Case File* ☐

RANGELAND HEALTH EVALUATIONS:

NV-ECS-01(s) (page 2): *In Case File* ☐

PRODUCTION DATA [ECS-RANGE-417] (if appropriate):

Not Applicable ☐ *In Case File* ☐

PLANT GROWTH CURVES:

Not Available ☐ *In Case File* ☐

OTHER (list): _____

Attached ☐ *In Case File* ☐

RIPARIAN/WETLAND INVENTORY

PROPER FUNCTIONING CONDITION worksheet has completed entries for *LOTIC* and/or *LENTIC* riparian areas (see pages 4 of 7 thru 7 of 7) referencing to:

BLM TR 1737-15 (1998). A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition and the Supporting Science for Lotic Areas or BLM TR 1737-11 (1994). Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition for Lentic Areas.

Attached ☐ *In Case File* ☐

RIPARIAN VEGETATION ASSESSMENT MATRIX:
(see page 3 of 7):
Attached ☐ *In Case File* ☐

WATERSPREADING CONSERVATION PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION WORKSHEET (form NV-CPA-640):

Not Applicable ☐ *In Case File* ☐

THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES:

None ☐ *See Below* ☐ *In Case File* ☐

NOXIOUS OR POISONOUS PLANTS:

None ☐ *See Below* ☐ *In Case File* ☐

GRAZING MANAGEMENT

(If there are 2 or more grazing units [rangeland pastures], complete a Grazing Schedule Worksheet - see PLANNED GRAZING SYSTEM below)

LOCATION OF KEY AREAS IN EACH GRAZING UNIT IDENTIFIED ON PLAN MAP: ☐ YES ☐ NO

KIND AND CLASS OF GRAZING ANIMALS AND NUMBER OF ANIMALS GRAZED:

KIND OF ANIMALS TO BE GRAZED	CLASS OF ANIMALS	NUMBER OF ANIMALS

TIMING AND LENGTH OF GRAZING PERIOD:

TIMING OF GRAZING USE	LENGTH OF GRAZING PERIOD

SUPPLEMENTAL FEED SUPPLIED TO LIVESTOCK BEING GRAZED:

SUPPLEMENTAL FEED TYPE	FEED ALLOCATION PER HEAD/DAY

FORAGE SUMMARY & ANIMAL INVENTORY

NV-ECS-04 RANCH PLANNING SUMMARY:

Forage Inventory *In Case File* ☐

Number of pastures; size of each pasture; usable forage production for each pasture by season.

Livestock Inventory *In Case File* ☐

Number, kind and class of animals, and AUMs by seasonal period for each separate herd to be grazed.

NV-ECS-03 RANCH ORGANIZATION SUMMARY:

In Case File ☐

PLANNED GRAZING SYSTEM

A grazing schedule (if 2 or more grazing units) to guide livestock movements and identify periods of grazing, deferment, rest, and other treatments for each grazing management unit.

Not Appropriate ☐ *In Case File* ☐

Specify the number; the kind and class of animals to be grazed; the timing of use; and, the length of each grazing period for each grazed sub-unit (separate field) in the riparian pasture area. Follow format as presented in Exhibit I of Prescribed Grazing practice specification.

RANGE READINESS (HERBACEOUS VEGETATION):

Listed Below ☐ *Attached* ☐ *In Case File* ☐

PASTURE	KEY AREA	KEY SPECIES	REGROWTH PERIOD	RANGE READINESS* *PLANT HEIGHT*	or	RANGE READINESS* *PHENOLOGICAL STAGE OF PLANT GROWTH*

**Range Readiness* is a defined stage of plant growth at which grazing may begin under a specific management plan without permanent damage to vegetation or soil. ***Regrowth Period* is the time (in days) required for harvested forage plants to return to grazing readiness stage.

WILDLIFE FORAGE/BROWSE ALLOCATIONS BY PASTURE:

Listed Below ☐ *Attached* ☐ *In Case File* ☐

PASTURE	WILDLIFE SPECIES	FORAGE or BROWSE ALLOCATION FOR WILDLIFE (Lbs/Ac)	CRITICAL WILDLIFE FOOD, COVER OR SHELTER REQUIREMENTS	SPECIAL HABITAT CONCERNS*

**Special Habitat Concerns* - include specific wildlife habitat requirements such as strutting grounds, nesting, and brood rearing areas and fawning, kidding, or calving areas.

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

A plan to monitor and document impacts of grazing management is to be prepared. Includes completion of NRCS-RANGE-414 (and/or NRCS-RANGE-416); identification of photo point locations (if used) and record of trend (change) in plant community structure, species composition, and productivity as prescribed grazing is applied. Record actual grazing dates, climatic conditions, livestock stocking density; and livestock performance.

MONITORING PLAN: *Attached* ☐ *In Case File* ☐

NRCS-RANGE-414: *Attached* ☐ *In Case File* ☐

NRCS-RANGE -416: *Attached* ☐ *In Case File* ☐

CONTINGENCY PLAN

If requested, a contingency plan that accounts for potential management problems (*i.e.*, drought) and a guide for adjusting the grazing prescription to insure resource protection will be developed.

Not Requested ☐ *Attached* ☐ *In Case File* ☐

PRACTICE CERTIFICATION

Practice specifications have been reviewed and practice application is *agreed to*:

Client: _____

Date: ____/ ____/ _____

I certify that the above practice has been applied and meets NRCS Practice Standards and Specifications.

NRCS Planner: _____

Date: ____/ ____/ _____

RIPARIAN AREA/STREAMBANK VEGETATION ASSESSMENT MATRIX

PASTURE	KEY PLANT SPECIES ON SITE CAPABLE OF PROTECTING STREAMBANKS	VEGETATIVE COVER OF KEY PLANT SPECIES PRESENT | REQUIRED TO PROTECT STREAMBANKS	MINIMUM STUBBLE HEIGHT OF KEY PLANTS ON STREAMBANK TO REMAIN FOLLOWING GRAZING	KEY PLANT SPECIES ON SITE CAPABLE OF TRAPPING AND HOLDING SEDIMENTS	VEGETATIVE COVER OF KEY PLANT SPECIES *PRESENT* | *REQUIRED* TO TRAP AND HOLD SEDIMENTS	KEY RIPARIAN BROWSE PLANTS	CRITICAL GROWTH AND ESTABLISHMENT PERIODS FOR KEY RIPARIAN BROWSE PLANTS
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Reference To:
Bureau of Land Management TR 1737-15 (1998). A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition and the Supporting Science for Lotic Areas.

DETERMINING PROPER FUNCTIONING CONDITION OF *LOTIC* RIPARIAN-WETLAND AREAS

Standard Checklist

Name of Riparian-Wetland Area: _____

Date: _____ Segment/Reach ID: _____

Miles/Feet: _____ Acres: _____ ID Team Observers: _____

Yes	No	N/A	HYDROLOGY
			1) Floodplain above bankfull is inundated in "relatively frequent" events
			2) Where beaver dams are present, they are active and stable
			3) Sinuosity, width/depth ratio, and gradient are in balance with the landscape setting (*i.e.*, landform, geology, and bioclimatic region)
			4) Riparian-wetland area is widening or has achieved potential extent
			5) Upland watershed is not contributing to riparian-wetland degradation

Yes	No	N/A	VEGETATION
			6) There is diverse age-class distribution of riparian-wetland vegetation (recruitment for maintenance/recovery)
			7) There is diverse composition of riparian-wetland vegetation (for maintenance/recovery)
			8) Species present indicate maintenance of riparian-wetland soil moisture characteristics
			9) Streambank vegetation is comprised of those plants or plant communities that have root masses capable of withstanding high-streamflow events
			10) Riparian-wetland plants exhibit high vigor
			11) Adequate riparian-wetland vegetative cover is present to protect streambanks and dissipate energy during high flows
			12) Plant communities are an adequate source of coarse and/or large woody material (for maintenance/recovery)

Yes	No	N/A	EROSION/DEPOSITION
			13) Floodplain and channel characteristics (*i.e.*, rocks, overflow channels, coarse and/or large woody material) are adequate to dissipate energy
			14) Point bars are re-vegetating with riparian-wetland vegetation
			15) Lateral stream movement is associated with natural sinuosity
			16) System is vertically stable
			17) Stream is in balance with the water and sediment being supplied by the watershed (*i.e.*, no excessive erosion or deposition)

(Revised 1998)

Remarks

SUMMARY DETERMINATION

Functional Rating:

Proper Functioning _____

Functional–At Risk _____

Nonfunctional _____

Unknown _____

Trend for Functional–At Risk Rating:

Upward _____

Downward _____

Not Apparent _____

Are factors contributing to unacceptable conditions outside the control of the manager?

Yes ____

No ____

If yes, what are those factors?

___ Flow regulations ___ Mining activities ___ Upstream channel conditions
___ Channelization ___ Road encroachment ___ Oil field water discharge
___ Augmented flows ___ Other (specify)_____

DETERMINING PROPER FUNCTIONING CONDITION OF *LENTIC* RIPARIAN-WETLAND AREAS

Standard Checklist

Name of Riparian-Wetland Area: _____

Date: _____ Area/Segment ID: _____ Acres: _____

ID Team Observers: _____

Yes	No	N/A	HYDROLOGY
			1) Riparian-wetland area is saturated at or near the surface or is inundated in "relatively frequent" events (1-3 years)
			2) Fluctuation of water levels is not excessive
			3) Riparian-wetland zone is enlarging or has achieved potential extent
			4) Upland watershed is not contributing to riparian-wetland degradation
			5) Water quality is sufficient to support riparian-wetland plants
			6) Natural surface or subsurface flow patterns are not altered by disturbance (*i.e.*, hoof action, dams, dikes, trails, roads, rills, gullies, drilling activities)
			7) Structure accommodates safe passage of flows (e.g., no headcut affecting dam or spillway)

Yes	No	N/A	VEGETATION
			8) Diverse age-class distribution (recruitment for maintenance/recovery)
			9) Diverse composition of vegetation (for maintenance/recovery)
			10) Species present indicate maintenance of riparian-wetland soil moisture characteristics
			11) Vegetation is comprised of those plants or plant communities that have root masses capable of withstanding wind events, wave flow events, or overland flows (*e.g.*, storm events, snowmelt)
			12) Riparian-wetland plants exhibit high vigor
			13) Adequate vegetative cover is present to protect shorelines/surface soil and dissipate energy during high wind and wave events or overland flows
			14) Frost or abnormal hydrologic heaving is not present
			15) Favorable microsite condition (*i.e.*, woody debris, water temperature, etc.) is maintained by adjacent site characteristics

Yes	No	N/A	EROSION/DEPOSITION
			16) Accumulation of chemicals affecting plant productivity/composition is not apparent.
			17) Saturation of soils (*i.e.*, ponding, flooding frequency and duration) is sufficient to compose and maintain hydric soils
			18) Underlying geologic structure/soil material/permafrost is capable of restricting water percolation
			19) Riparian-wetland is in balance with the water and sediment being supplied by the watershed (i.e., no excessive erosion or deposition)
			20) Islands and shoreline characteristics (*i.e.*, rocks, coarse and/or large woody debris) adequate to dissipate wind and wave event energies

Remarks

SUMMARY DETERMINATION

Functional Rating:

Proper Functioning _____

Functional–At Risk _____

Nonfunctional _____

Unknown _____

Trend for Functional–At Risk Rating:

Upward _____

Downward _____

Not Apparent _____

Are factors contributing to unacceptable conditions outside the control of the manager?

Yes ____

No ____

If yes, what are those factors?

___ Dewatering ___ Mining activities ___ Watershed condition
___ Dredging activities ___ Road encroachment ___ Land ownership

___ Other (specify)_____